IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFI

In re Application of:

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Bell et al.

Serial No.:

09/677,375

Examiner:

Group Art Unit: 1724

Not Assigned

Filed:

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For:

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METHOD

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE ST

MAY 3 1 2001

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Further to the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 29, 2001, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the additional references, copies enclosed, which may qualify as prior art. For the Examiner's convenience, the references are listed on the attached Patent Trademark Office Form-1449. A photocopy of the International Search Report, prepared by the European Patent Office, is also attached hereto

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1), Applicants state that the items provided herewith were cited by the European Patent Office as International Searching Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty, in the PCT counterpart of the present application and that the International Search Report was issued by the ISA/EPO less than three months prior to the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

The references and information provided herewith are cited in a spirit of forthrightness and cooperation to enable Applicants to obtain that measure of protection for the invention for which there is entitlement. However, no representation is made that the listed art actually qualifies as prior art under the patent stature and the mere use of PTO-1449 is not an admission that all listed references are prior art. No representation is made that Applicants know of the best art.

It is believed that the present submission does not require the payment of any fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.16-1.17 in view of the statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(1). If this is incorrect, however, please deduct any necessary fee from Deposit Account 07-1969.

Respectfully submitted,

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